From:

Tony Patti

To:

Microsoft ATR

Date:

11/16/01 2:03pm

Subject:

Remedies for Microsoft monopolies insufficient

We need greater constraints on the Microsoft computer monopoly than those proposed.

As a user of Macintosh computers, I am a victim of Microsoft's monopoly every time I try to use software or browse a web page. Just because everyone at the Department of Justice uses Windows, they think there is no reason to believe they should stop the Microsoft monopoly. If you used another computing platform, you would realize just how much it is costing consumers to allow Microsoft to continue to dominate the computer industry.

Microsoft's arguments that they could lose their monopoly in a minute is not only specious and self-serving, but is also untrue from the historical perspective of the computer industry. People have made the same claim about how the internet was going to wipe out AOL for the past 8 years, and by now it is clear to see that people don't change their computing habits as easily as Microsoft claims.

Since Microsoft clearly has a stranglehold over the entire industry, they are abridging the freedom of speech in America by making it necessary to buy a copy of their software to exchange speech between computers.

The source code of all Microsoft operating systems, past and future, is now a document that belongs to everyone in the world. Since we all depend on it, Microsoft should not be allowed to keep it secret any longer. Anything less would severely constrict the rights of every US Citizen, not to mention the rest of the world. It also impinges on the ability of our government to function since everything is computerized.

This is not a business decision, as the DOJ seems to think. This is a decision about the very rights of our citizens to communicate openly, for now and into the future.

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